

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

UpsideDown

Acts 16:25-31 & 17:1-8

Acts 16:25-31

About midnight Paul and Silas (in prison) were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

⁵ But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, ***“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,*** ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” ⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things.

Up2IDE Down World

they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, ***“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also...saying that there is another king, Jesus.”***

UpSIDE Down Me

²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Who is really the prisoner?

What gives me value, purpose, hope?

Who is my King?

“you are slaves of the one whom you obey...”

Romans 6:16

I need an UpSideDown King to turn me RightSideUp.

UpSIDE Down King

² And Paul went in...proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead...
“there is another KING, JESUS.”

Matthew 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Right2IDE Up Life

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas (in prison) were praying and singing hymns to God

How can I get Free?
Live Free?

Not just heaven, but now?

“The legs feel nothing in the stocks,
when then heart is in heaven.”

Tertullian (c. 200AD)

There are two ways in which a practical moralist may attempt to displace from the human heart its love of the world - either by a demonstration of the world's vanity, so as that the heart shall be prevailed upon simply to withdraw its regards from an object that is not worthy of it; or, by setting forth another object, even God, as more worthy of its attachment, so as that the heart shall be prevailed upon not to resign an old affection, which shall have nothing to succeed it, but to exchange an old affection for a new one.

Expulsive Power of a New Affection,
Thomas Chalmers (c. 1840)

Right2IDEUp Sharing

Acts 16:25-31

About midnight Paul and Silas (in prison) were praying and singing hymns to God, **and the prisoners were listening to them,**

We are ALL in this together and need others to walk alongside us and remind us who our KING is.

And this is one of the greatest testimonies to Jesus than we can ever give the world.